

[Return to regular web page](#)

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**

To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

July 21, 2006

High Court proposes useful jury reforms

Changes would allow juries to play a larger role in trials

The Detroit News

The Michigan Supreme Court has posted a number of suggestions for allowing juries in both criminal and civil trials to play a greater role in the trials. The proposals contain a number of good ideas and deserve a thoughtful response from the legal community as well as the public.

The proposals would allow jurors in civil cases as well as criminal cases to submit questions to witnesses with a judge's permission.

This suggestion would still require judges to make sure inappropriate questions are not asked and allow lawyers to object to questions outside of a jury's hearing.

The court also suggests allowing attorneys to provide reference documents or notebooks for jurors with exhibits, lists of witnesses and other helpful information. There may be problems or issues with these or other suggestions that aren't immediately apparent to the public -- but anything that makes it easier for ordinary people on juries to do their jobs will also serve the cause of justice.

(The proposals are available on the court's web site at www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Resources/Administrative/2005-19.pdf).

[Return to regular web page](#)